

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference CFE03636WO	FOR FURTHER ACTION see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. PCT/JP2004/006917	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 14/05/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 14/05/2003
Applicant CANON KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).
 - b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.
- 2. **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box II).
- 3. **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box III).
- 4. With regard to the **title**,
 - the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
 - the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,

- the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.
- the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. With regards to the **drawings**,

- a. the figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 5
 - as suggested by the applicant.
 - as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.
- b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box No. IV Text of the abstract (Continuation of item 5 of the first sheet)

An image forming apparatus has a first image formation mode A for forming an image 502 on an image bearing member by using developer under a first predetermined image forming condition and a second image formation mode B for forming an image 507 on an image bearing member by using developer under a second image forming condition which is different from the first predetermined image forming condition regarding an exposure time on the basis of sensitivity variations and is set so that an amount of consumption of developer with respect to an identical image in the second image formation mode is smaller than that in the first image formation mode, the apparatus includes storing means 50,103 for storing information for setting the second image forming condition corresponding to a plurality of levels of an amount of usage of the image bearing member such as copy sheets fed, and control means 105 for changing the second image forming condition in the second image formation mode depending on an amount of usage of the image bearing member and information stored in the storing means.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

JP2004/006917

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G03G15/043 G03G15/08

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 G03G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 583 621 A (NARUKAWA TOSHIKI) 10 December 1996 (1996-12-10)	1-6, 8-15, 17-29, 31, 32
Y	column 1, lines 6-36; figures 2-5, 6C column 4, line 7 - column 6, line 53	7, 16, 23, 30
Y	US 2001/013939 A1 (BEARSS JAMES G ET AL) 16 August 2001 (2001-08-16) '0002!, '0006!, '0022!, '0030!-'0037!figures 1-4	7, 16, 23, 30
A	US 6 266 153 B1 (HAWKINS BRIAN C ET AL) 24 July 2001 (2001-07-24) column 1, line 22 - column 2, line 51; figures 1-13	1-32

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

Date of mailing of the international search report

21 September 2004

03/11/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Kys, W

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

JP2004/006917

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5583621	A	10-12-1996	JP DE DE EP	8054806 A 69523712 D1 69523712 T2 0704818 A1		27-02-1996 13-12-2001 08-05-2002 03-04-1996
US 2001013939	A1	16-08-2001	US BR EP JP DE EP JP	2001012111 A1 0001257 A 1076270 A2 2001092203 A 69822999 D1 0932301 A2 11254750 A		09-08-2001 03-04-2001 14-02-2001 06-04-2001 13-05-2004 28-07-1999 21-09-1999
US 6266153	B1	24-07-2001	BR	9901528 A		06-03-2001